IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE PCT NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION OF

Group Art Unit:

STEPHEN JOHN COUGHLIN ET AL.

Examiner:

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP 03/04259

FILED: APRIL 24, 2003

FOR: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR

IMPARTING IMPROVED RHEOLOGY ON

PIGMENT BASED INKS AND PAINTS

U.S. APPLICATION NO:

35 USC 371 DATE:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicants respectfully submit the present Preliminary Amendment to place the instant claims in better condition for examination on their merits.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1935.